

REMARKS

Applicants have added new claims 14 and 15 to round out the scope of the claims. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) on Itoh (U.S. Patent Application No. 2001/0021037). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite “a second setting section for setting up a sender address representing a sender by accepting a designation of the sender address which is distinct from an address specifying the network scanner device.” Itoh does not disclose or suggest such features.

The Examiner cites paragraphs [0015]-[0020], [0022], [0111], [0146] and fig. 10 of Itoh as disclosing all of the features recited in applicants’ claim 1. Specifically, the Examiner cites paragraph [0020] and fig. 10 of Itoh as disclosing the “second setting section” of claim 1, asserting that the “IP address is the address of the sender instead of the sending location address.” Applicants respectfully disagree.

As disclosed in paragraph [0158] of Itoh, the “IP ADDRESS OF SENDER” depicted in Fig. 10 is a local IP address of the network scanner apparatus. Itoh further discloses that the PC 300 which receives an IP packet from a network scanner device extracts the IP address from the header. The IP packet is then transmitted from the PC 300 to the network scanner device. Thus, a direct communication is formed between the network scanner device and the PC 300.

From the disclosure of Itoh, it is clearly understood that the “IP ADDRESS OF SENDER” stored in a header portion of the IP packet must be an address of the network scanner apparatus itself in order to realize the direct communication between the network scanner device and the PC 300. In other words, the “IP ADDRESS OF SENDER” depicted in Fig. 10 is not an address of a “sender” (a user who is sending) as recited in applicants’ claim 1 (see, paragraph [0007] of applicants’ specification), but is instead the address of the network scanner apparatus. If an address

other than the address of the network scanner apparatus, for example an address of person, were to be used in the system disclosed in Itoh, a direct communication would not be realized.

Claim 1 recites that a sender address representing a “sender” is distinct from an address specifying the network scanner device. This distinction addresses a problem to be solved by the present invention which occurs because an address of person (sender address) is different from the address of the network scanner device (see, paragraphs [0007]-[0008] of applicants’ specification).

Claim 1 is therefore allowable. Applicants have amended claims 11 and 12 to recite features substantially similar to those of claim 1 discussed above. Claims 11 and 12 are therefore allowable. Claims 2-10 and 13-15 depend from allowable claims and are allowable due at least to their respective dependencies.

Additionally, applicants note that Itoh appears to mischaracterize certain technological features. For example, paragraph [0158] of Itoh discloses that “the IP address and the local IP address of the network scanner apparatus 100” are set by a user. However, paragraph [0072] of Japanese application JP2000-28912, which corresponds to the paragraph [0159] of Itoh, discloses that the IP address is set by the user and the local IP address of the network scanner apparatus 100 is not. Additionally, paragraph [0159] of Itoh discloses that “The PC extracts the IP address of the transmitting destination from the header.” However, the object to be extracted has to be the local IP address in view of technological common sense. In paragraph [0072] of JP2000-28912, which also corresponds to the paragraph [0159] of Itoh, it is actually described that “The PC extracts the local IP address of the transmitting from the header.” Accordingly, applicants submit that Itoh is not technologically consistent with itself and may contain translation errors which obfuscate its true disclosure.

Applicants solicit an early action allowing the claims.

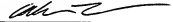
In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to

withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief, including extensions of time, and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing Docket No. **204552037100**.

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